

"IN WAR, TRUTH IS THE FIRST CASUALTY" - Aeschylus



The 1st Casualty

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VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR



When Nixon inaugurated Vietnamization, he was aware that the DRV/NLF would respond in some manner. This response was assumed to be an offensive (in fact, when the US government awarded the contracts for post-war development of Vietnam back under Johnson, the planners were told to 'expect a major offensive, possibility in 1972, which would fail') on the scale of Tet 1968, in which about 84,000 men participated. Vietnamization was basically planned around this response. It began with the creation of military security cordons along the DMZ, in the Central Highlands and in the Saigon area. Behind this screen, the Thieu regime increased its air force, armored, artillery, and marine strengths all by percentages approaching 100 and its airborne strength by about 30%. These

increases were quite evidently aimed at compensating the Thieu regime in terms of firepower for that lost because of the gradual US withdrawals.

At the same time a number of attempts were made to forestall the expected offensive. The first of these was the invasion of Cambodia in 1970 which was designed to disrupt NVA/NLF supply capabilities. Although this operation had some short term effect, it was a failure. The second attempt was the Laos operation of 1971, which resulted in 50% casualties for the ARVN forces involved as well as losses of 35 attack aircraft and almost 500 helicopters. It failed. A third ground attempt was made in the summer and fall of 1971 with renewed incursions into Cambodia, but these were stopped after a series of rather blatant ARVN de-

feats. Thus, it too failed. A fourth attempt was made by means of air attack on the Ho Chi Minh Trail between December 1971 and March 1972. Carried out under the guise of 'protective reaction' and of 'limited duration reprim-

sals,' some 450 fighter bomber and b-52 sorties also failed to prevent the offensive. The final stage was the ARVN moving into position to meet the expected offensive. From ten divisions in 1968, all of which were committed to the support of 'pacification,' the ARVN had moved by 1972 to eleven divisions, seven of which were committed to the conventional military role of the defense of territory.

By October of last year, information pointed to a probable NVA/NLF offensive. By January, the US expected it in February or

March around Kontum. The offensive actually began at the end of March at the DMZ, taking the US/ARVN high command by surprise. Within ten days of the start of the offensive, the ARVN had effectively lost two of its divisions--the 3rd had fallen apart in the DMZ and the 5th was surrounded at An Loc. Since then the military situation of the Thieu regime has continued to worsen and with this deterioration pressure for new US intervention grew louder.

Nixon originally had a set of options which ranged from negotiating in Paris to sending the US ground troops to resuming the bombing of the north. Nixon himself torpedoed the Paris talks (in ways and for reasons not germane to this article). On April 15 he bombed Hanoi and killed 1,700 civilians (the Hanoi population is currently being evacuated). The ostensible reason for the air attacks and the mining of North Vietnamese harbors which followed has been the cutting of the supply flow to the south. This effort requires a daily sortie rate of about a hundred planes with extensive bombing of primary and secondary roads and railroads and because of the necessity for bombing extremely close to the Chinese border (such as on June 7), creates the definite possibility of dangerous international incidents.

The second problem with the air power strategy is that it simply will not work. The reasons for this are simple and mathematical. In order to survive as a country, North Vietnam requires daily some 7,000 tons of imports. The offensive in the south itself requires a daily tonnage input of 3,500-3,000 tons. North Vietnam has a daily transport capacity estimated at some 21,000 tons-6,000 by sea, 7,000 by road, and 8,000 by railroad. Thus, even if the ports were totally closed, the North Vietnamese still retain a daily transport capacity of 15,000 tons with a daily need for only 10,000. The problem that Nixon faces is to eliminate that extra 5,000 tons of capacity, but at the same time road and railroad cutting is a highly tenuous strategy. In the first place, all the roads and railroad lines north of Hanoi run through mountain valleys which are excellent sites for antiaircraft guns and SAMS, especially since the attacking planes have to get into the valleys in order to drop their bombs. Further, during the year of heaviest air effort against the north, 1968, it required daily attacks by 275 airplanes mer-

ely in order to reduce North Vietnamese road capacity to 3,500 tons. The additional use of 200 more aircraft per day could reduce rail capacity to about 6,400 tons per day. Since it takes a certain number of aircraft sorties also to maintain the mine barrage, the cumulative effect would be to use 500 sorties a day in order to still leave the North Vietnamese with the capacity necessary for their offensive. In fact, the situation is even worse than this because it is estimated that an extra thousand tons per day are still percolating into the country in small boats and along the Red River.

The one action that could seriously affect the supply situation would be the bombing of the river dikes in the north in combination with the above actions since this would increase the import need by about 3,000 tons a day due to the destruction of the rice crops by water. The last time this happened, in 1945 as a result of storms and drought, more than a million people died. Nixon's use of this action would amount to mass genocide.

Even so, however, it takes 35 to 40 days for a cargo unloaded at Haiphong to reach the fronts in the south. At the time the US blockaded the harbors, the NVA/NLF already had a substantial stockpile of reserve supplies in the south. Altogether, even if all the supplies from the north are cut off, the NVA/NLF will have the supplies for 75 days of intense fighting. Thus, the earliest that the pace of the offensive could be stopped by supply route bombing would be the end of July. Altogether, bombing is not very practical.

Nevertheless, what Nixon has done essentially has been to burn his bridges behind him. There is only one further substantive action that the US can take in South Vietnam and that is the recommitment of ground troops. Although this may not seem likely, the appearance is misleading. The reason is the actual ground situation in the south. At this time Thieu's army, the ARVN, is operating in a series of widely separated and in many cases surrounded areas without any significant reserves. The only way ARVN can respond to a major threat in one area is to strip another of troops. This became particularly clear when the An Loc situation forced the ARVN to withdraw the 21st Division along with elements of the 9th division from the

Mekong Delta as well as two regiments of the 18th division from the area west of Saigon. In fact, the whole thing is exacerbated by the fact that normally it takes three ARVN line battalions to match an NVA regular battalion. The resultant force ratio between the two sides is very instructive:

	I CORPS (Hue)	II CORPS (Kontum)
NVA BATTALION EQUIVALENTS	56	26
ARVN BATTALION EQUIVALENTS	33	29
FORCE RATIO (NVA/ARVN)	2.0/1.0	2.5/1.0
	III CORPS (Saigon)	IV CORPS (Delta)
NVA BATTALION EQUIVALENTS	27	24
ARVN BATTALION EQUIVALENTS	35	18
FORCE RATIO (NVA/ARVN)	1.0/0.7	4.0/1.0

Of the four areas, the one around Hue has now become critical. Hue constitutes a position of tremendous psychological importance to both sides. It is the old Imperial Capital as well as the cultural center of Vietnam. The impact upon the war when the NLF captured it during Tet in 1968 provides a graphic illustration of this. In addition to this, Thieu has made its importance even greater by the way in which he's defending it. Of the 33 battalion-equivalents in the zone, twenty-six are elite units of the ARVN's 1st Division or its paratroops, rangers, and marines. These are the only units that have been able to stand against the NVA on a one to one basis and they have done most of the fighting. The paratroops and marines are largely formed of Vietnamese

Catholics and include many who left the north back in 1954. Their defeat would wreck the last vestiges of morale that ARVN has. In addition, if the units were destroyed as well, it would represent the destruction of 85% of the ARVN's elite units.

The battle for Hue is going to have the importance of Dienbienphu in the Vietnamese war against the French. The zone has been extremely quiet recently, but this quiet does not represent the end of the offensive. The quiet represents the fact that the NVA forces have to replenish their supplies before a renewed attack. It is important to remember that the

NVA never moves before it is absolutely ready. What they are doing now is emplacing artillery, supplies and especially antiaircraft forces all over the province of Thua Thien, in which Hue is located. SAMs emplaced in the Thua Thien hills will be able to shoot at US jets almost as soon as they take off from Da Nang. In addition, as more time passes, the rainfall in Thua Thien is steadily rising toward its peak in September, which will make air operations out of Da Nang more and more difficult. To say that the NVA never attacks during the monsoon season is a delusion; they have done so before not only in Vietnam but also in northern Laos and during the war with the French. In this case, it seems that the stakes are sufficiently high for them to do so. The next three weeks around Hue will be very important and should see the NVA attacking once again. If they do not, it will be as a result of a deliberate policy decision. It will mean that Nixon will be in great trouble in October just before the elections.

To say that Nixon and the US generals do not see all of this is also a delusion. They are currently engaged in 'preparing' the American public for a new intervention. This is being done by ranting about the North Vietnamese 'invasion' of the south, which actually constitutes the same type of operation that Northern generals conducted throughout our Civil War. Through Pentagon spokesman Jerry Friedheim, the argument was then made that US bases currently held in Vietnam must be defended in order to insure the 'withdrawal' of American troops. No one has mentioned that one of these bases is at Phu Bai, six miles south of Hue on the Pearl River. It just so happens that because of the range of modern cannons, any defense perimeter for Phu Bai must include the city of Hue. Thus the 'defense of bases' is going to be used as a disguise for a US ground involvement against the wishes of the American people.

The involvement has so far taken the following course. Phu Bai was reinforced at the beginning of May to the extent of a battalion of the 196th Infantry Brigade, a sixth of all combat forces then in Vietnam. Later in the month, a force of three battalions at least, one of the 196th, one of the 3rd Brigade 1st Air

Cavalry Division (formerly around Saigon), and at least one of the 3rd Marine Division, was established at the Hai Van pass, which guards the approaches to Da Nang. The Marines had been withdrawn from Vietnam long ago but they are now back. They passed through Da Nang in unmarked jungle fatigues with US markings painted out on their vehicles (according to one letter). At the present time the mission of the troops at the Hai Vann pass is being de-

scribed as 'security duty.' (Friedheim said at the press conference mentioned above that Abrams had every right to replace 'a company of cooks with a company of riflemen'). Other US units of the 3rd Marine Division have been rotated from Okinawa to the Philippines by way of several days stay in Vietnam, mostly in Quang Ngai province where the division was stationed in 1967. In addition, the division's normal helicopter complement has been shifted from El Toro in California to bases in Japan (a Marine division is never committed without its helicopters).

There is also the exterior element of the situation. At the present time a brigade each of the 82nd Airborne (Fort Bragg) and the 101st Airborne (Fort Campbell) Divisions are on two-day alert with their equipment packed. The Marine landing force off the coast now has three reinforced battalions and a regiment of the 3rd Division is aboard transports ready for commitment. In real terms this means that Nixon has the capability of intervening almost instantaneously with three battalions to be followed by three further ones within 24 hours. The airborne represent six more battalions that can be in Vietnam within about 76 hours of his decision. At the present time one cannot rule out the possibility of actual amphibious invasion of the north, around Vinh or Cape Mui Ron, envisioned by Nixon as a reprisal to cut supply lines.

After twelve years of insanity the American government has apparently learned nothing. If it is not prevented by the American people, we can easily find ourselves back in 1965.



The following films and books can be ordered through National Office.

FILMS

Winter Soldier Investigation Films:

#1. 1st Marine Division (17 min, B&W)
Subject: Eye-witness war crimes testimony given in Detroit, Feb. 1971, by veterans of the 1st Marine Division.

Rental: \$20.00-Sale: \$50.00

#2. Americal Division (25 min. B&W w/ color slides)
Subject: Eye-witness war crimes testimony given in Detroit, Feb. 1971, by veterans of the Americal Division.

Rental: \$35.00-Sale: \$125.00

Only the Beginning (20 min. 16mm color & B&W)

Subject: Veterans turning in medals in Washington, the war in Viet Nam from both sides, the air war, and back to Washington.

Rental: \$35.00-Sale: \$115.00

Dewey Canyon III (25 min. B&W)

Subject: Viet Nam Veterans Against the War's week in Washington, April, 1971. A limited incursion into the territory of the Federal Gov't. to search out and destroy the last vestige of a barbaric war.

Rental: \$25.00-Sale: \$75.00

Different Sons: (52 min, color)

Subject: "Operation Raw" (Rapid American Withdrawal), VVAW's march to Valley Forge, Pa. on Labor Day weekend, 1970.

Rental: \$60.00-Sale: \$425.00

BOOKS

WSI

A complete text of the war crime testimony given in Detroit, in Feb. 1971, by Viet Nam veterans from all over the country.
\$2.50

WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

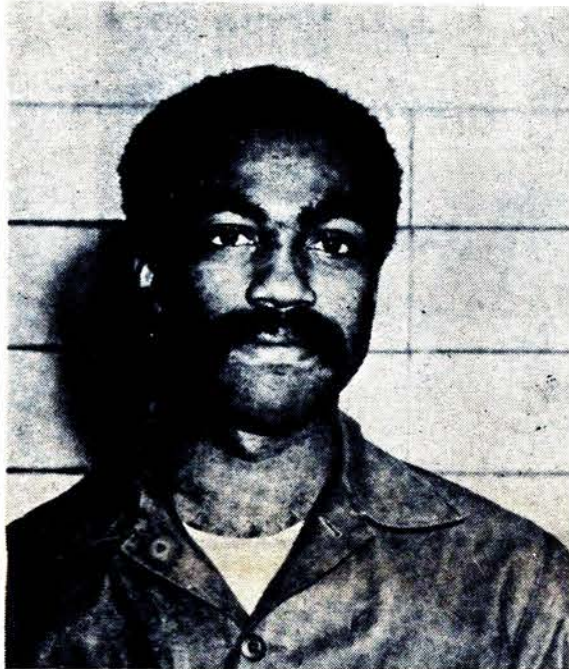
A selection of poems written by veterans, about their personal experiences, actions, and the events they saw, that no one else but they could understand. The horrors of war, napalm, white phosphorous; search and destroy.
\$1.95

The New Soldier

A pictorial view of the events that took place in Washington during Dewey Canyon III, in April of 1971. \$3.50

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

Political repression has become the American way of life. Every day brothers and sisters are being railroaded to prisons on trumped-up charges leveled against them by the racist judicial system under which we live. Sister Angela has been freed. The power of the people stopped the court system from ripping off Sister Angela, but what about those prisoners whom we don't hear about thru massive publicity campaigns. What about Billy Dean Smith, Scott Camil, Gary Lawton, Carlos Feliciano, the Harlem 4, the VVAW 600. The racism and repression which is the American way of life keeps their names from the public.



WHO IS BILLY DEAN SMITH?

Billy Dean isn't a halfback for Louisiana State University. He is not a Texas wheeler-dealer-buddy of Lyndon Johnson. Private Smith is a black man about to stand trial for his life for allegedly killing two white American officers in Viet Nam by fragging.

Smith is being defended by attorney Luke McKissack, the lawyer who represented Sirhan Sirhan, Eldridge and Kathleen Cleaver, Charles Manson, and Geronimo Black. McKissack is generating publicity about Smith partly because he needs a great deal of money to conduct the defense. But McKissack has another motive. He hopes that by stimulating public interest in the case, people will begin to ask not "who" but, "Why Billy Dean Smith?" This is a case which represents far more than one innocent man fighting for his life. Billy Dean Smith is a symbol for all of us.

Billy was tenth in a family of twelve children. He spent most of his life in Watts. Af-

ter graduating from high school in 1967, he worked at an assortment of odd jobs: machinist, car salesman, school bus driver. In 1969 he received his draft notice. Opposed to the war and the Army, Smith walked out of the induction center prepared to face jail. But his family was against his action and he returned for induction. He was sent to Oklahoma for Advanced Individual Training in artillery and to Viet Nam in October 1970.

On the front lines Billy's alienation increased. He wrote home, "They ain't doing nothing over here but killing, killing. This was not the kind of attitude cherished by the Army. His commanding officer, Captain Rigby, along with 1st Sgt. Willis, persistently harassed him. Private Smith received three Articles 15's (non-judicial punishment) within a few months. These included a citation for not shaving even though he was in the bush at the time. Rigby sought an unfit discharge for Smith because he was unenthusiastic about closing on the enemy and Rigby doubted that he would ever make a good soldier.

At 12:45 the morning of March 15th, 1971, a fragmentation grenade exploded in an officers barracks in Bien Hoa, killing two officers and wounding a third. Rigby and Willis were to have slept in the fragged barracks that night, but had switched barracks with the victims at the last moment. Rigby and Willis were convinced that Billy had done it.

They contacted the Criminal Investigation Division and called a battalion formation. Smith was called to the front of the formation and notified that he was under arrest for murder. No one else was accused or even investigated. In fact, six members of the battalion didn't even show up. No evidence was offered, no witnesses or explanation of possible motive provided. But Billy Dean Smith was under arrest.

"To understand this case you must see what Billy Dean represents," said Louise Monaco, Mr. McKissack's assistant. "The army might as well have picked him at random." She further explained that Smith's case is the first trial in the U.S. for fragging. It is clearly intended as a crackdown of the insur-

rection of enlisted men, because fragging has become a serious problem for the Army.

In 1969 the DOD reported 126 fraggings. In 1970 the number increased to 271, causing 34 deaths and 306 injuries. In the first eight months of 1971 there were 238 fraggings. Army officers, like Rigby and Willis, are reportedly switching barracks nightly to confuse would-be saboteurs. Some officers are even keeping enlisted men in their barracks overnight as hostages. According to the L.A. Times, the Pentagon now frowns on the term fragging because it "doesn't carry the stigma as the proper legal term for murder..."

The Army is concerned for the welfare of its officers, for the efficient operation of the war machine, and for its image. In April, Mike Mansfield introduced the term fragging into the Senate. He warned that the problem has become so severe that the Army must lock up the weapons of soldiers after they leave the combat area. Mansfield argued that taking weapons away from a G.I. doesn't remove "the atmosphere that drives an American G.I. to kill his fellow G.I. or superior."

Mansfield was referring to the pervasive disillusionment of enlisted men with the war. But, according to Louise Monaco, there is another cause of dissent. "The racist persecution of black people by whites, the segregation of bars and recreational facilities, and the vindictive attitude of many white, particularly southern white, officers against black enlisted men who refuse to act like slaves...." Billy wrote home, "No Vietnamese ever called me nigger."

Smith's attorney sees other issues in the case besides the Army crackdown on enlisted men. They intend to question the legality of the Vietnamese war based on the Pentagon Papers and the entire system of military justice, "from its jury selection process, to court-martial procedures, to the legality of the death penalty." Finally, they intend to question the pre-trial detention system, pointing to Nixon's intervention in the Calley case.

In the middle of all this sits Billy Dean Smith, symbol. He has been confined since his arrest last March and is presently being held in the stockade at

Fort Ord. The sum total of the direct evidence against him is a hand grenade pin found in his pocket after the fragging. Ballistic experts in Japan tested the markings on the pin and grenade spoon found near the explosion. Clearly the two don't match. But the Army insists they do. They have even blown up one of the two photographs to simulate a match. Initially, the Army had a theory about how Smith had access to a grenade --but ballistics showed the grenade in the fragging doesn't correspond to the theory. Furthermore, it is common for G.I.s in the front line to carry grenade pins or wear grenade pin necklaces. One soldier told McKissack that he was ordered to hold onto pins he used in combat.

A ballistic expert told McKissack that it is impossible to tell whether a pin and spoon match because "the pins don't make an identifiable mark; only by rubbing it against a concrete wall would it leave a trace." It is even conceivable that the grenade was not an American weapon.

The Army failed to turn up any other evidence against Smith. They took soil from where the alleged fragging took place and soil from Smith's shoes. Again no match. The sole circumstantial evidence against Smith was that he reportedly made statements that he hated the Army, the war, and Rigby and Willis. He allegedly called the two "racists" and stated that he would "get even" with them and that fragging would be a good way to do it. But, as his attorney points out, "Perhaps 90% of the lower enlisted ranks hate the war, the Army and their C.O.'s and feel fragging is too good for them."

Gary Lawton

Gary Lawton faces two counts of first degree murder for the slaying of two Riverside, California, police officers. The circumstances and evidence surrounding this case have made the oppressive conditions in Riverside even more obvious to the community.

In March, 1971, the black community of Riverside became outraged over the shooting death by police of Bro. William Palmer. Police claimed Palmer was resisting arrest, but witnesses maintain that Palmer was



shot in the back while walking away from police. Tension came to a head on April 2, when two white police officers, Leonard Christianson and Paul Teel, were killed in the Bordwell Park district, a center of previous turmoil.

The shootings had the police department in a total state of uproar. The entire 185-man police force was put on standby alert. A special task force of 18 detectives was organized to track down the killers, and roadblocks surrounding the community were set up. Blacks were indiscriminately stopped, searched, and questioned. What followed, black residents described as a "reign of terror." The killers had to be caught. After all, Riverside had not had a policeman killed in over 28 years. The city's reputation of being "trouble-free" was at stake.

The initial reports gave descriptions of the four suspects, three white and one black. Later an APB issued described the suspects as four blacks between 16 and 18 years of age, three about 5'7" in height with medium build, the other 6' tall and thinly built. As the search dragged on without success, police narrowed their investigation down to one person--Gary Lawton.

Gary Lawton, an ex-marine and self-employed maintenance man, had been an active leader

in the black community for several years. Lawton was also actively involved in a committee to seek justice in the death of William Palmer. Gary had become a sore spot in the eyes of the city power structure.

The shooting of the police officers became a perfect opportunity for authorities to eliminate one "black militant". Lawton was called down to the station on several occasions for questioning. Each time he went without resistance and volunteered for the lie detector test. Each time on the machine, the test confirmed "no deception" in his statements.

Lawton told police at the time of the shooting that he was in his front yard working on his truck. He heard of the incident from friends. Gary in no way matched the description of the suspects. He is 6'3", heavy set and balding.

Gary Lawton's proof of innocence was not good enough for the police. On May 19, police in force broke into his house and arrested him. Within 90 minutes of the arrest he was arraigned without bail on two counts of murder. (Since the indictment, Lawton has been further charged with eight counts of attempted murder and one count of shooting at an occupied dwelling in 1968).

Complete silence was imposed around his arrest. Chukia Lawton, ~~his~~ wife, was informed of her husband's arrest from a neighbor. No one was allowed to see him, including his wife.

The grand jury indictment is solely based upon the testimony of two blacks, Ronald Williams and Ronald McKenna, both suspected by the community of being police informers, and a 14 year old white girl. Williams claims that he sold the shotgun used in the killings to Lawton. The 14 year old girl can allegedly link Lawton to the shootings. However, the police have failed to mention the fact that none of the guns confiscated from Lawton matched the murder weapon in a ballistics test.

Gary Lawton's trial is to be held in Indio. Indio lies in the middle of the desert; its population of 16,000 is only 1% black. Prior to the 1950 murder trial of Bucky Walker, no blacks had ever sat on a jury in the history of Riverside County which still remains a racist stronghold.

When the trial begins on July 10 brother Gary will be

faced with a line of police and less than creditable prosecution witnesses and no attorney. This is a classical case of conspiracy by the state to eliminate all black organizers. (His negro attorney quit on June 3 because he didn't have a \$20,000 advance).

It has become obvious that Gary has no chance for a fair trial in Indio or Riverside County. It becomes our responsibility to see that this brother does not hang.

On July 10th, the California, Nevada, Hawaii region of VVAW will sponsor a support action at the Indio courthouse. We urge your support in the struggle to free Gary Lawton and all political prisoners.

SCOTT CAMIL

Scott Camil, the VVAW Regional Coordinator for Florida, and Nancy McCown were arrested and charged with kidnapping for ransom, a capital offense.

According to Sherriff's dept. aide, Captain Wilson, three "hippie" types got ripped off for some THC; so they kidnapped two teenage boys to recoup their losses.

Wilson said the two victims were taken to VVAW headquarters, where they were held overnight, "guarded by six men armed with shotguns and carbines." Then, alledgedly, they were turned loose after promising to return with \$100.

Scott was said to have then gone to a pre-arranged spot, accepted a marked \$100 bill, and was then arrested. The victims then spotted Nancy near the scene and suddenly remembered that she had been involved all along. She was also arrested.

Scott said he was told that the boys owed a debt to a friend, "and since I was the only one at the house who had transportation, I agreed to pick up the money." He said "I even signed a receipt and gave it to the teenagers-- would I sign a receipt if I thought I was involved in a kidnapping?"

After considerable delay and hassle, Scott was released on \$10,000 bail and went to the National Convention in Denver. As soon as he returned to Gainesville, his house and car were searched without benefit of a search warrant. Nothing incriminating was found, but he was arrested anyway on 3 charges of possession and delivery of marijuana and hallucinogens.

The basis for the second arrest is a tip from a person the police refuse to name. Again after much hassle, Scott was released on an

additional \$6,000 bond.

In all of these cases we see a constant theme. Community organizers and workers have been accused of crimes against the state, i.e. private property. Angela Davis has been acquitted, Bobby Seale and Erika Huggins have been freed. The Soledad Brothers were acquitted but are still in jail on other charges. The force which freed all of these brothers and sisters is not the fairness of the American judicial system, but the strength and unity of common people to stand up and demand a halt to the unjust prosecution of those who speak out against injustice and inhumanity in America. We must continue this fight to free all political prisoners---for it is only when we are all free, will any one of us be truly free and human.

Billy Dean Smith, Scott Camil, and Gary Lawton very directly relate to VVAW's struggle. Billy is an active-duty brother, Scott is our regional coordinator in Florida, and Gary is a Marine Corps veteran. All are members of VVAW.

The fourth objective of VVAW ends by stating we demand that all political prisoners be freed. Political repression is not isolated to our organization or membership. It is wrong not to recognize the just struggles of others or to feel that ours are much more important. We are building for a third American revolution. Our task is to build communities based on trust, understanding, collectivism, and Love; not a continuation of old patterns built out of sexism, racism, and corporate profit.



ATTENTION!!!!

On August 2 and 3 the NYC Chapters are planning a public hearing dealing with the problems of addicted veterans, the causes of that addiction and the treatments that are available and those that should be available. We are also looking for people who are familiar with Air America and its cargos. If anyone has information on any of these topics, please write to: NYS VVAW, 25 W. 26 St. NYC, NY 10010.

WEATHER COMMUNIQUE

The Weather Underground recently sent us a communique concerning the bombing of the Pentagon. While VVAW does not engage in this type of tactic, we certainly understand the reasons leading to such actions.

"All Power to the Indo-Chinese in their struggle against Imperialism...and their allies."

Vietnam Veterans Against the War

25 West 26th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010

- ☐ I am a Vietnam Veteran and I would like to join your group.
☐ I am a concerned citizen and enclose \$_____ to support your program.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Area code & phone# _____
 Vietnam service: _____ yes _____ no
 Active duty: _____ yes _____ no
 Service #: _____

Are you a new member? _____ yes _____ no
 Is this a change of address? _____ yes _____ no

I enclose \$_____ to help pay the costs of the 1st CASUALTY.

Please take me off the National mailing list _____



COME TO MIAMI !

THE CONVENTIONS AND THE VETERANS

The Miami conventions are at hand. The circus side shows of American politics-- complete with barkers, ticket takers, animals, beautiful girls, pretty boys, and freaks-- will be presenting the '72 versions of "Democracy in Action," July 10-14 and August 21-23. Obscene old men and women will converge on Miami Beach, get drunk, get laid, and attempt to shape the destiny of this country as an afterthought. They will talk, argue, compromise, bribe, sell out, cop out, and lie during this exercise in futility, BUT THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING.

As members of the armed forces, we were well acquainted with the real effects of American imperialism and neo-colonialism. We have seen this first hand in the form of dismembered bodies, tortured minds, puppet governments, and disrupted society.

As members of the armed forces, we were forced to become the deadly instruments of our government's racist and genocidal policies in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world. We were part of the great American war machine which, even now, is systematically destroying the lands and people of Indo-China in the name of their own freedom.

As members of the armed forces, we found that we faced a superior army-- superior not in arms and equipment but in will and determination. They believed in what they were fighting for; we didn't. We found that we could never defeat this army because it truly represented the people; it was the people.

As members of the armed forces, we saw too many of our brothers and sisters forced to die in this insane war. We saw too many of our brothers and sisters crippled physically by this conflict, and crippled mentally in wild attempts to escape its realities.

As members of the armed forces, we were forced to live and work under conditions which allowed us no control over our own destiny. In the name of discipline, we had no say in what we did, nor were we allowed the representation of a union or the election of our own leaders. All the time, the oppressive Uniform Code of Military Justice was held over our heads to mete out decisive in-

justice to those who chose to dissent.

Now, we are veterans, and as veterans we should be guided by the force of our consciences to heighten the struggles against these manifestations of oppression that we once suffered under. Our previous actions have proved that the American people listen when veterans speak. Now we must speak all the louder because it is a time when maybe the people will do something to change these conditions which have existed for so long. National attention will be focused on Miami during the conventions; this makes it ideal for our struggle. We must come prepared to deal with the real issues, and we must make every attempt to force those who purport to be our leaders to deal with them also.

Miami is necessary. Miami is crucial. Join us there. For more information, contact your local chapter or regional coordinator.

SCENARIO FOR MIAMI

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

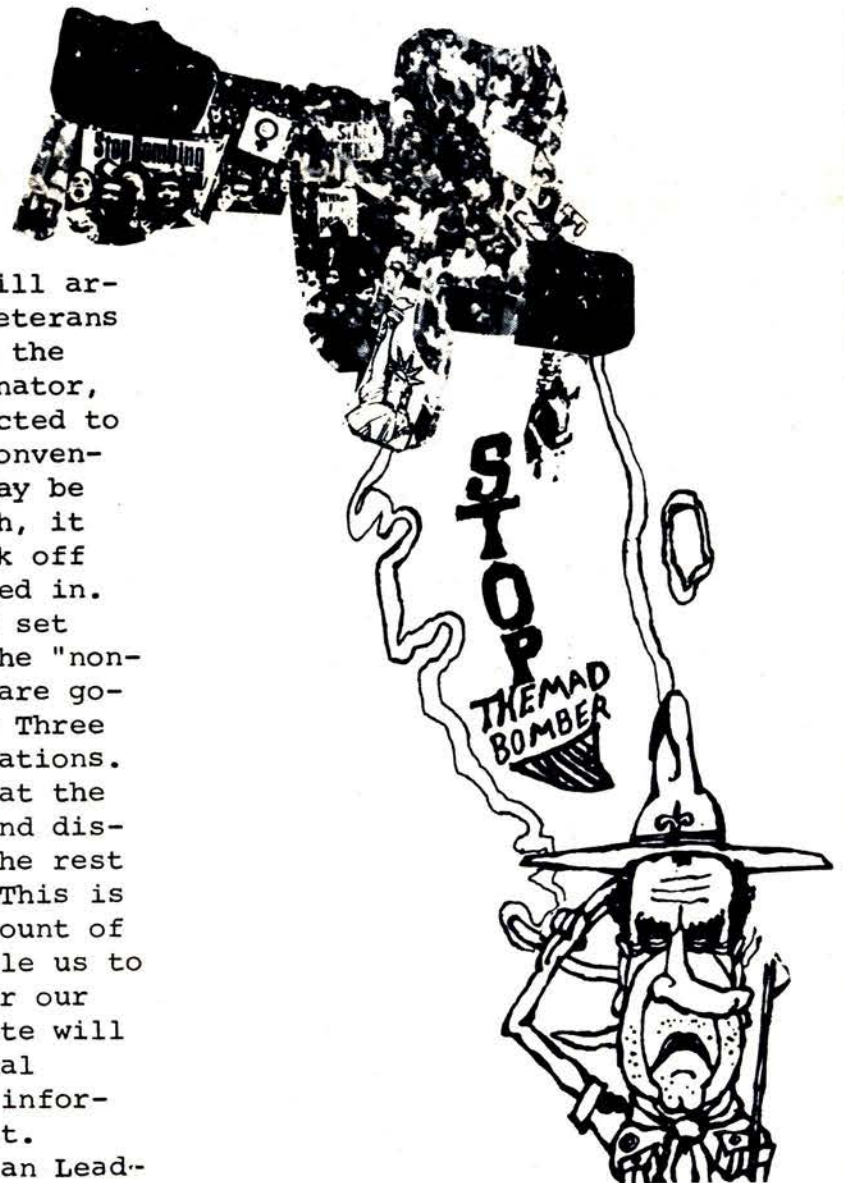
July 6-8: Veterans will arrive in Florida. All veterans should check in through the Florida Regional Coordinator, Scott Camil, to be directed to staging areas for the conventions. Since parking may be a problem on Miami Beach, it may be necessary to park off the beach and be shuttled in.

July 9: Check in and set up day. Tentatively, the "non-delegates" (that's us) are going to be given the Par Three Golf Course for accommodations. VVAW will have an area at the course which is apart and distinctly separate from the rest of the demonstrators. This is to give us a certain amount of unit integrity and enable us to have better control over our own people. The campsite will be set up with a regional grouping and a central information and control point.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), led by Reverend Ralph Abernathy, will be holding a rally in Miami City sometime in the afternoon. They have asked that everyone join them. Also SCLC will be establishing "Resurrection City" at this time.

July 10: VVAW, along with National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), (Beulah Sanders, National Director), will sponsor a mass march from Miami City to the convention site. The march will most likely begin before dark (about 7p.m.). This is when we will be presenting to the delegates what we are expecting they accomplish during the convention.

July 11: This will be the first day of workshops and seminars at which VVAW will attempt to begin to deal with the real issues and problems that face us as veterans and the country as a whole. We are tentatively planning groups that deal with the war, the bombing, the escalation, drugs, the VA, veterans benefits, unemployment etc. Also during this time will be spontaneous demonstrations and guerilla theatre which will dramatically portray the issues we are dealing with.



July 12: Same as the 11th.

July 13: Education of the candidates. We are trying at this point to contact all the candidates and we are inviting them to come to listen to what

we have to say about what they should be concerned with. If they will not come to us, then we will go to them. The Democrats have been promising that they stand for meaningful change. This will be their chance to prove it.

July 14: The program for this day will be left open pending the outcome of the convention.

Logistics: Everyone should come prepared to house, clothe and feed themselves for the five days of the convention. In keeping with the overall atmosphere of the convention, the weather will probably be oppressively hot, so come prepared to deal with that. Also, the mosquitos will probably be on the prowl for young and tender bodies to suck on. Medical facilities and sanitary facilities will be provided. The availability of drinking water at the campsite is not known at this time, so it would be advisable to bring a canteen or other such container. Any protective equipment (gas mask, helmet etc.) will be brought on individual initiative, at least for the Democratic Convention.

SEE YOU IN MIAMI

GENOCIDE ALERT:

Stories are now hitting the media that unauthorized bombing of North Vietnam has gone on during much of the Nixon Administration. The full extent of this is not now known. If you know of such insubordination, or know of someone who does, this information should be fed to the media.

To contact the press:

Sy Hersh, NY Times, Washington Bureau, (202) 293-3100

Mike Gettler, Washington Post, (202) 223-6000

Reuters, toll free number is (800) 221-7266 (Lars Nelson)

UPI and AP, phone your local bureau, request they notify the Pentagon desk.

Chicago Sun Times, (312) 321-3000 (National desk)

(All these newspapers run wire services reaching hundreds of other newspapers.)

If you come up with someone who is willing to do a TV, radio interview, of course, try the national networks--ABC, NBC, CBS in New York City. Also try National Public Radio (130 stations), Washington DC (202) 833-1230; and Mutual News (radio) (900 stations), Washington DC (202) 737-6226.

TV groups that reach independent stations are UPI in NY--ask for Ray Burke with their TV group; and Broadcasting News in Washington DC (202) 337-8961. There may be other groups.

Sy Hersh has been breaking the story. He will keep confidential identities if that is important. By covering even the non-major networks you will increase the willingness of the major networks to pay attention --if not this time, maybe next time--after they realize they have been scooped.

The unauthorized stories may show up as the following:

A photo recon expert plots an attack on North Vietnam, 5 days later it is released to the press as a protective reaction strike. A recon plane is sent as bait as a group of fighter bombers circles over Laos awaiting word that the North Vietnamese have fired at it.

A report that a reconnaissance plane was loaded with ordinance (already a violation) overflew North Vietnam and returned minus the ordinance.

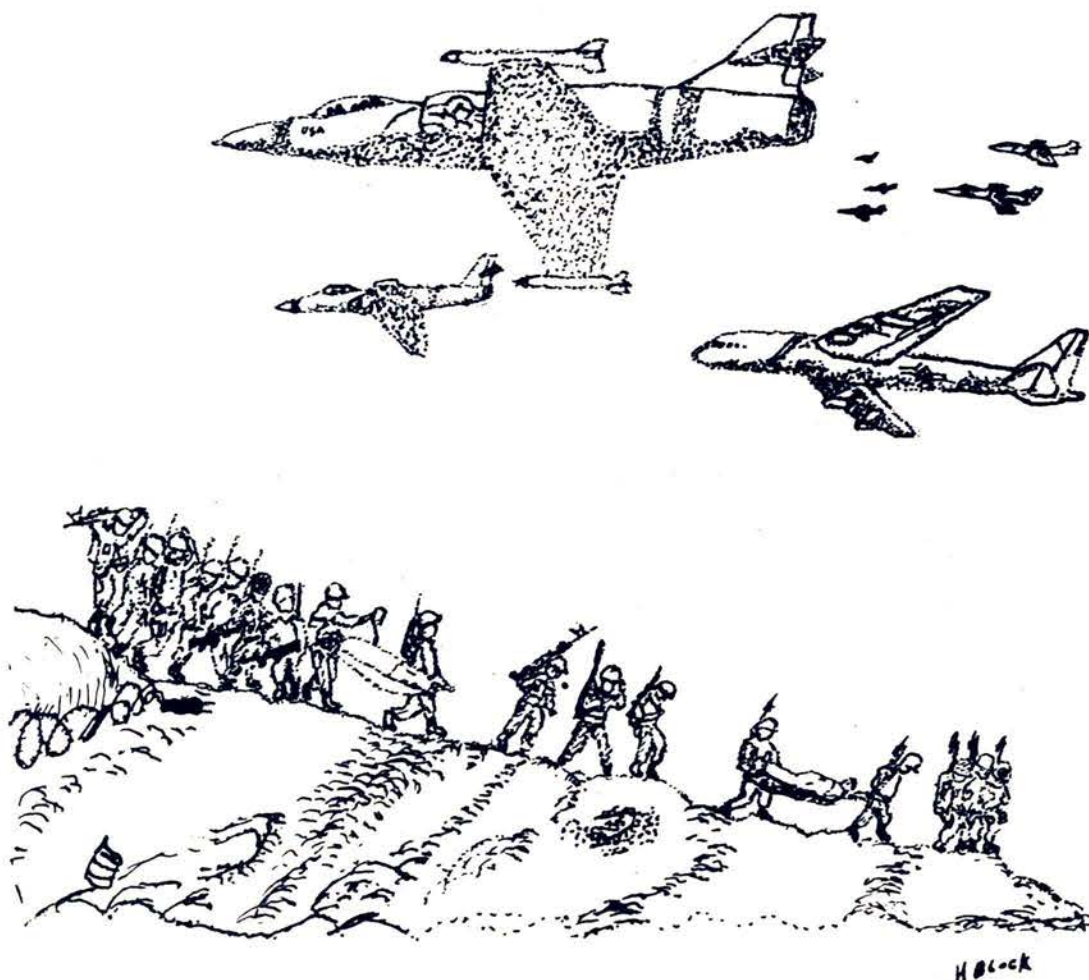
A pilot report of AA fire as justification for a protective reaction strike in an area known not to have AA guns.

Rumors have the navy involved as well, so don't leave any stone unturned: maybe the Marines got into the act as well.

Would you please send a copy to VVAW National, and to George Stein, c/o NARMIC, 112 S. 16th St. Philadelphia, Pa. 19102, (215) 103-9372.

PARIS FLASH

From June 26 to June 28, fifteen Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW members) will meet in Paris, France with fifteen Indochina veterans of the war. This will be the first time ever that former enemies have met each other as brothers while the conflict in which they fought is still going on. The purpose of the conference is for all the veterans to come to know one another as human beings instead of targets in gun-sights, and to arrive at a common position in the face of the continuance of the war. It will be three days of profound human contact and exchange, and serious discussions concerning ways to bring the war to an end. The entire affair is being sponsored by the International Center for Denunciation of War Crimes in Vietnam.



NARMIC is interested particularly in the mechanics of the (mal)functioning of the chain of command which permitted unauthorized bombing.

Leaning over the bar counter with his hands poised threateningly at my throat, M.B.* shouted, "You punk, I'll come over this counter and kick your head in!"

"You do and you'd better be prepared to kill me", I shouted back, "'cause that's what I intend to do to you!"

I picked up the nearest bar stool and was preparing to use it on my opponent's head when I heard the sound of the door opening behind me and the sound of hurried footsteps indicated that someone was coming up behind me. Quickly evaluating the expression on M.B.'s face, and seeing that he too was distracted, I gambled a peek over my shoulder to see who had come in. It was G.R.**, someone I'd served in the Marine Corps with in Vietnam back in 1964. I was relieved because I knew that my opponent would not likely continue his attack in the presence of a witness.

"What's going on, guys?" the new comer asked in a forced tone of friendliness, for somehow he had sensed the hostility in the air.

"Not much", I looked over at M.B., and he too became a bit more relaxed. He probably did not want to kick my head in, I thought, and I really didn't want to kill him.

"Just got back from Muong Souei. Man, the shit's about to hit the fan there."

"Yeah, so I've heard. This morning I sent up two companies of Vang Pao's troops there. Tomorrow morning both Continental and Air America*** will be sending about ten flights up there. Things don't look well at all."

"Just like Vietnam in '64, huh del?" G.R. laughed as he slapped my knee.

"Just like the Congo in '64" M.R. joined in.

He had come from behind the bar counter and had sat down on a lounge chair next to the wall. He motioned for us to join him in the adjoining chairs, the concern for the situation at Muong Souei seemingly more important at the moment than the quarrel he and I did not have a chance to finish. Allowing G.R. to go ahead of me, so that he would be sitting between M.B. and I in case all hostilities had not yet subsided, I asked M.B. to elaborate.

"The same shit that's happening here was happening back in the Congo when I was there flying for the same fucking 'cus-

REFLECTIONS OF SILENCE: Laos 1967

Note about the article: The above incident took place in Vientiane, Laos, 1967. del Rosario was employed as an operations assistant for the C.I.A. financed airline, Continental Air Services, Inc. Based out of Vientiane, one of his responsibilities was to monitor all flights in the country, to know where each aircraft was at all times, determine how much cargo and what each aircraft should carry, and for whom. In February 1972, he presented testimony before national press and television about the C.I.A. involvement in the opium trade in Laos. A few days later a spokesman of the C.I.A. publicly denied that they knew anything of the illicit drug traffic in Laos. The usual policy of the C.I.A. to charges made against them is silence.

tomer'****. You fly military equipment to ignorant bastards who don't even know how to turn a screw driver, you provide the food they eat, you clothe them, you take care of their wounded, and you still have to fight the fucking war for them."

I nodded in agreement.

"G.R. and I did that back in Vietnam, and we're doing it again here in Laos. The Vietnamese, the Lao, the Congolese...I guess they're all the same."

"Yup, they're all the same. Ha ha", M.B. laughed, "I remember every time we'd make contact with the Katangese, our niggers would start lining up outside of the field dispensary with self-inflicted wounds, or no wounds at all under the bandages."

"Same-same Vietnam and Laos."

G.R. took a slow swig from a

*M.B. are initials of a person I do not wish to identify.

**G.R. are also initials of a person whose identity I will not reveal.

***Continental and Air America are two charter airlines under contract by the C.I.A. to provide air logistical support for overt and covert operations in Laos.

**** Central Intelligence Agency as the people in Laos refer to it. I've never seen the head 'customer', only heard his voice.

bottle of beer left by a previous customer on our table. He pulled the .38 caliber revolver from the holster strapped to his hip and carefully picked the bullets out of the cylinder.

"If things keep going the way it has been, del, we'll find our young asses back in the crotch."

Before I could answer, M.B. spat out, "That shows you how much you know about what we're doing here in Laos. The 'customer' will never allow this war to get any bigger than it is already. They don't want some dumb-shit goody-goody Marine to come stumbling into their private little war. Look what they are doing to Vietnam - they've fucked up what was once a good little war. The only thing that is needed in this country are professionals."

"You telling me that the Marines aren't professionals?"

"I'm telling you that the only way to fight a war and win it is to keep it quiet from the American public. Once they hear about it they'll want to get a piece of the action, and once they get a piece of the action, they'll find that there are certain nasty things that goes with running a war properly, and then they'll suddenly find it's against their morals. Look at those fucking students and commies protesting against the war in Vietnam back in the states. Shit, if they ever found out about Laos we'd all be replaced by the Marines and Army, and in no time at all we'd be paying these fucking Laotians for being here and fighting their war."

"I still think that one Marine division could come into this country and kick ass and take names."

"You're ignorant, del Rosario. You're fucking ignorant. Do you know what this war is all about? Do you know what you send those planes out to Ban Houei Sai for? Do you know why only certain people are allowed to go in and out of Twenty-Alternate*? Do you know what leaves this country on our planes for Saigon? It ain't chilli peppers, buddy."

"Opium", I answered almost inaudibly.

M.B. picked up his hat from the table, got up and walked up the stairs of Suzanne's Bar and Restaurant in search of company for the night.

*Site 20-Alternate, better known as Long Cheng, was a secret operations base for the C.I.A.

WE ARE EVERYWHERE

New York

With our developing consciousness and our clearer understanding of events and situations that lead up to and initiate war, we in New York have begun to reach out to the people in the local communities throughout the state. While acknowledging the importance of large scale demonstrations and the necessity for headline-grabbing actions, we feel that the true strength of VVAW is the fact that we as veterans have first-hand knowledge of war and its consequences. This knowledge must be passed on through a person-to-person contact.

In line with this premise we have begun to set up storefronts and community centers where we can be visible to the people of our neighborhoods and can talk to them about the war and at the same time provide services that are lacking because of the gross expenditures of the federal government for the war in Southeast Asia. Our first storefront is located in Brooklyn. There the vets have begun draft and military counseling, health care programs, an information center on services provided by the city and in general a place in which neighbors can drop in to talk about the war. Other programs are in the process of being set up.

There are now veterans working in community centers in Oneonta and Albany and a storefront is being set up in Potsdam. The veterans in Buffalo are looking for a storefront and are in the meantime offering military counseling and job referrals in addition to setting up veteran caucuses in steel factories. Many chapters are working from schools such as in Syracuse, Suffolk County, Binghamton and Rockland County where there are great concentrations of veterans. A chapter of VVAW is now being set up in Harlem-South Bronx which will deal with the particular problems of third world and poor white vets. Throughout the state we have begun the awesome job of trying to get positive results and programs that are acceptable to Vietnam-era veterans from the Veterans Administration and hopefully a complete shakeup of that bureaucracy. Planned for August 2 and 3 are hearings that will bring to the public's attention the plight



of the addicted veterans and the lack of concern of the federal government for treating these victims of the war. In New York City the three VA hospitals have only 417 beds for drug addicts when there are an estimated 10,000 addicted veterans in the five boroughs.

And most importantly we are dedicated to ending the genocidal slaughter of the Indo-Chinese peoples. This job becomes more and more difficult as time goes by due to the fact that the current administration tries its best to deceive the American people as to what their real interests are. We aren't fooled and we will continue to speak to people in their communities for as long as is necessary.

Washington-Alaska

After hearing of the blockading of North Vietnamese sea-ports, VVAW members from the Western Washington State College chapter mined the harbor at Bellingham, Washington with 100 multicolored balloons.

On May 11th, 8 brothers and sisters took over the King County Republican Headquarters in downtown Seattle. During their occupation of the building, from which they were finally evicted by 23 Seattle policemen, they distributed leaflets to the employees of the fascist party in power, stating that they were Vietnam Veterans Against the War. The Seattle Vet Cong were all charged with criminal trespass.

Two days later, a crowd of 1,000 demonstrators marched from the U.S. courthouse in protest of the mining. The demonstration's organizers, Seattle Peace Action Coalition (yes they are), had intended the march to end at the Westlake Mall in downtown Seattle. VVAW had other

intentions however. The Seattle Times described what transpired: "The demonstration was marked by factionalism with a more radical coalition carrying the march beyond its intended destination - the Westlake Mall - (to) the King County Republican Convention at the Seattle Center...As the last scheduled speaker was talking, some in the crowd shouted: 'We want the Vets.' Finally, a VVAW representative was allowed to speak. He called for the march to the Republican convention. At the Westlake Mall, an SMC sound truck told marchers, 'Thanks for your participation.' But most followed the Vietnam Vets and SDS coalition on to the Seattle Center. The group marched through the children's ride section of the Fun Forest chanting: 'One, two, three, four we don't want your fuckin' war.'

New Mexico-Arizona

As soon as the news of the mining of the North Vietnamese ports was heard by students of the University of New Mexico, they poured out into the streets, 500 strong, to demonstrate their protest. The pigs fired into the crowd with shotguns, wounding three students, one of them very seriously. The next day the pigs shot 12 more students. The shootings might have continued and more people might have been wounded or killed had not VVAW members placed themselves between the demonstrators and the pigs and said "If you're going to shoot at the students, you're going to have to shoot us first." Flesh is a very thin armor, and the line between anger and love is a very thin line.

Colorado-Utah-Wyoming

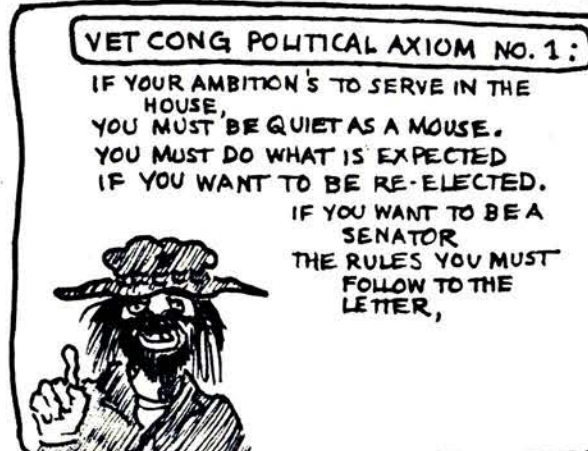
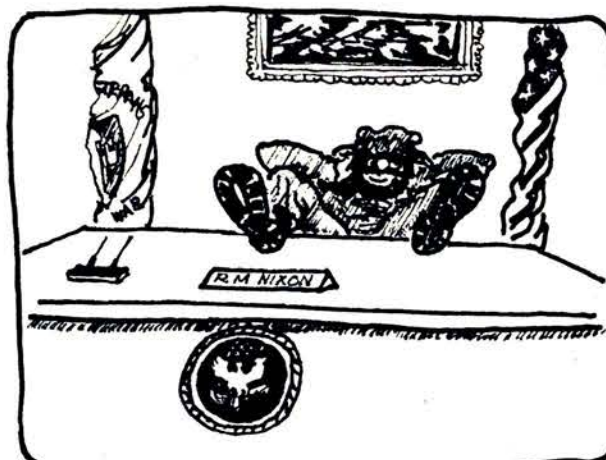
2000 people in Boulder, after hearing Nixon's speech on the blockade, took to the streets and held Highway 36 for 24 hours. The police forced them with tear gas to relinquish one side of the highway but the demonstrators just crossed over to the other side of the highway and held that. Civil disobedience, leafletting, barricades and silent vigils marked the activities for the VVAW in Denver and Lowry AFB. The Greeley VVAW held a forced-march of 40 miles from Greeley to Denver to join the vigil on the Capitol steps. In Wyoming, 35 VVAW members held a silent vigil on the steps of the Capitol in Laramie.

the further, furthest, far-out
adventures of

SUPER

Vet

by: del Rosario



AND OCCASIONALLY YELL OUT 'TREASON!'
'GAINST ANYTHING THAT SMELLS OF REASON.
BUT IF YOU PRACTICE HARD AND LONG,
WHETHER YOU 'RE IN THE RIGHT OR IN THE
WRONG,
THAT ART OF MASTERFUL DECEIT
YOU MAY FIND ROOM IN A HIGHER SEAT.



GATHER QUIET MEN ABOUT
YOU,
MEN WHO WILL APPLAUD
ON CUE;
AVOID THE REAL AND THE
PERTINENT,

AND ONE DAY YOU MIGHT BE PRESIDENT!



UNLESS YOU'D MUCH RATHER
KICK ASS, FIRST



California-Nevada-Hawaii

Two members of VVAW, along with five other persons, were arrested when Pat Nixon came to dedicate a Camellia Festival in Sacramento. The two veterans were charged with interfering with a "peace" officer and battery. Their bail was set at \$2,000 each.

Monterey

Brothers and Sisters from the Monterey chapter of VVAW, joined the Santa Cruz Anti-Imperialist crew at Fort Ord California, April 29th in the protesting of the intensified bombing by the U.S. government. The demon-

stration lasted approx. 2½ hours blocking traffic on Hwy. 1. Repeated trips by two trucks delivered approx. 400 demonstrators to the rally. They were also instrumental in organizing discussions of U.S. war policy at Monterey College in conjunction with the county-wide student strike called in April.

San Francisco

In the middle of an organized protest of the increased bombing by the U.S., 16 members of VVAW liberated the Air Force recruiting office, downtown San Francisco. While over 2,000 demonstrators gathered around outside the building, acting as a buffer between the tac squad and the Fed. building, the vets watched recruiting films.

The vets issued a statement which stated: "We took over the recruiting office to recruit for life, not death...." The action was called a "protective reaction strike against Nixon's bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong." The statement went on to say that "the Air Force had no right to recruit people to continue this racist, aggressive war. Business as usual is over for today..." It was.

San Diego

On Friday, April 21st, 15 VVAW brothers turned themselves in at the 11th Naval District Headquarters for war crimes committed while in the service of the Im-

perialist US government. It took the federal pigs 2½ hours to figure out what law VVAW had broken and under whose control they were to fall. As it worked out, five brothers were busted on federal charges, The charges being of conspiracy to deface government property (a felony) and trespassing on federal property. Bail was set at \$2,000 per brother.

Orange County

Orange County has Disneyland, the Western Whitehouse, the John Birch Society and now it has VVAW. Their first major action was on Armed Farces Day. They led a march from El Toro Marine Base to Memorial Park in Orange County. They c-sponsored march with MDM and the Orange County Anti-Imperialism Coalition.

VVAW in Orange County has been working with the Vietnamese Students for Peace in California and will provide security at their cultural nights, and speaking engagements.

Los Angeles

L.A. VVAW co-sponsored a "Free Billy Dean Smith" rally, May 13 at South Park, near Watts in L.A. Approximately 300 people came out to learn about the plight of our brother, Billy. Among the people speaking were Ron Kovic (VVAW), and Albert Miranda, the father of Manuel Miranda, who died in Viet Nam April 13th, 1971.

While Ron and Albert were speaking, all the veterans who were there were asked to come up to the podium. Black, white, brown men and women, they crowded the podium to the accompaniment of a standing ovation from the audience, many of whom cheered and raised their fists in salute.

On April 19, several members of VVAW, including five sisters, took over and occupied the US Naval Reserve Center in North Hollywood, for seven hours. This was done to express their protest of the continued air war and bombing of Vietnam by Ameri-



In the bag...oops!

Idaho-Montana

VVAW and active-duty brothers from the Covered Wagon blocked the entrances to Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, on May 13th. Demonstrations of this kind prove to the U.S. Air Force that active-duty GIs and VVAW are together in the struggle to end the war in Indochina and to work toward a complete change in the social order of this country.

DRUG DETENTION

"How can you believe a place like that is going to help you when they let a man who is sweating like crazy and running a high fever, die in front of them?" a GI from the 542nd here in Long Binh asked.

He was talking about TC Hill, the drug detention center located 12 miles north of Saigon. And he was also talking about his former unit-mate, SP-4 Jeffrey C. Wright, from Flagstaff, Arizona, who died of malaria here.

Wright didn't die in the hospital at TC Hill. He was "drying out" in the post's detention center. Wright's friends say he had gone to sick call several times complaining of a chill and cramps, but the medics sent him away telling him he only had a cold.

"He was walking around here like a skeleton for three or four days," a member of the unit asserted. "Then his urine test came out positive and he was sent to the center at TC Hill."

Periodic urine samples are taken in search of Heroin users, though many men claim they are both an "affront to personal privacy", and frequently inaccurate. Mistakes in diagnosis are common. A Spec 4 said,

"For instance, they picked up a hard-drinking lifer a few weeks ago, and sent him to the center. He couldn't believe it. He had never even smoked pot, let alone heroin, but his test came out positive and he was sent up to TC Hill to dry out."

Wright suspected he had malaria before he went up to TC Hill, but according to men in the unit, "People in the detention center mistook his malaria symptoms for withdrawal pains and refused to take him to the hospital."

Army spokesmen admit the incident occurred, but claim "The staff at the drug detention center thought Wright was 'Jonesing' (going into withdrawal). By the time they realized their mistake it was too late. He was dead by the time he reached the hospital."

News of the G.I. Movement! CAMP NEWS

is a national monthly newspaper for the G.I. Movement. Over the past year, CAMP NEWS has regularly published the truth about the resistance of servicemen and women to imperialism, racism, and the daily oppression of life in the American military. Each month, CAMP NEWS contains news, features, analysis and reprints from the GI underground press. Keep up to date on the G.I. Movement by reading CAMP NEWS!

\$3.00 one-year 3rd class sub

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Return to:

CHICAGO AREA MILITARY PROJECT (CAMP)

2801 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657

can forces. The Naval Reserve Center is part of that operation in regards to the large number of naval ships and airplanes that are causing so much misery and loss of life.

They would like to thank all those people that supported them outside the Naval Recruiting office and who are attending their trial.

Fresno

Anti-war demonstrators gathered at the north end of the Fresno mall May 10 and marched to the Federal Building to hold a rally and a vigil until 3 am to protest Nixon's latest escalation of the war. Led by Gary Alexander of Fresno's VVAW carrying an American flag, some 800 demonstrators, young and old, chanted and sang songs to pass the time until 3 am when the mines were activated. When the hour did come over 300 protestors were still on hand. There were no incidents of violence or police action.

North Dakota-South Dakota-Nebraska

Although there exists no formal regional office in this area, several chapters of VVAW are starting up, the most recent being in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

DARE TO STRUGGLE DARE TO WIN

--David Moberg, LNS

DOES IT HURT INSIDE ?

POST-VIETNAM SYNDROME

Until recently, psychological "disturbances" developing from combat experiences have been viewed as something that really affects only a few people. The classic example of a man suffering "combat fatigue" has been with us since World War I. The word is never passed on about the people who, for one reason or another were able to maintain under such stress, and upon returning to their society are unable to adjust and go through their own form of "combat fatigue."

Today a phenomenon has developed from our current war in Vietnam in the form of the troops coming home and "talking about the war". Not only talking about what the war isn't, but what it is as they lived it. As an outgrowth of this move on behalf of these returning veterans and current trends being developed in group sessions some puzzling questions are beginning to be answered.

Dr. C.F. Shatan, past professor and Clinic Coordinator of the Post Doctorial Psychotherapy Training Program of New York University, while working in rap sessions with New York members of V.V.A.W., developed a diagnosis of the situation calling it the "Post Vietnam Syndrome." The syndrome tends to be broken down to roughly nine different aspects, some or all of which can generally be relative to any individual.

1. Guilt feelings
2. Self punishment
3. Feelings of being a scapegoat.
4. Identification with the aggressor--no outlet for bitterness and hatred
5. Dead place in oneself--"psychic numbing"
6. Alienation--Xenophobia
7. Doubts about ability to love and trust other human beings again.
8. Post Vietnam Syndrome is really distorted mourning arising out of active discouragement of open grief by the military in a climate of death.
9. Need to account for apparent absence of similar syndrome in W.W.II vets. Two are of particular interest--unusual group cohesion and counter-insurgency training (with habituation to Universal Terror as chief weapon.

Dr. Shatan also observed that "Vietnam vets need intensive working through of their experiences (debriefing) to overcome an official attitude of dehumanized "antigrief."

VAN DALE TODD
Vietnam Veteran
1948-1972



The first "official" American to die in Vietnam was James T. Davis, sp/4, third radio research unit, 1961, 25 years old.

One of the last "unofficial" American deaths caused by America's involvement in Vietnam is Van Dale Todd.

On Wednesday, May 24, 1972, Van Dale Todd died. He was a very active member of the San Francisco VVAW chapter and one of the 16 people who occupied an Air Force Recruiting Station in San Francisco. Van was a former member of the 101st Airborne (Recon) and served in Vietnam from 1968-1970.

Van, along with all the other brothers and sisters in VVAW wanted and worked unceasingly for peace and an end to "mans inhumanity towards his fellow man". A world in which all men and women would enjoy freedom, justice, dignity, and the right to live, to learn, and to love. The right to be human.

His pleadings, protests and demonstrations consistently fell on the deafened ears and blinded eyes of the government that sent him to war.

His frustrations mounted, and finally he couldn't take the nightmares and the pain of this war anymore. In this state of extreme frustration he reached for the thing he perceived to be the answer; the "chemical cocoon" that this barbaric government provided him with.

Just prior to Van dropping these pills he talked about the way his outfit treated the Vietnamese women and children; he is another casualty of this genocide.

When the VA was contacted for help we were told that his death was not directly service connected so the VA were not liable and would not help us.

Van was buried at Holy Cross Cemetary on May 27, 1972. VVAW made all of the funeral arrangements, he was buried in his fatigues and VVAW button.

We will miss our brother, but he would not want us to mourn him.

We will not mourn this brothers death, WE WILL intensify the struggle to stop the war at home and abroad, remembering our brother's great love for peace and the any examples he set for us in California.

Van is one more victim of this government and should be counted among the millions who have been maimed and murdered. The best way to honor the memory of our brothers is to continue to work for peace and justice.

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TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY
Regional Coordinator position
vacant pending election)

MISSISSIPPI-ALABAMA
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EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA-MARYLAND-DELAWARE
Regional Coordinator
position vacant
pending election

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-EASTERN MARYLAND-VIRGINIA
Regional Coordinator
position vacant
pending election

NORTH CAROLINA-SOUTH CAROLINA
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NEW JERSEY
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NEW ENGLAND
Reg. Coordinator
position vacant



7. To show Americans that our society is permeated by racism, which manipulates whites into viewing non-whites as inferior or less than human. This racism pushes Third World People through inferior schools to inferior jobs and into combat arms. Thus Third World People are sent off to die in disproportionately high numbers as we kill Asians indiscriminately. We also demand the U.S. military recognize its complicity in America's domestic and international racism.

8. To show that sexism plays a major part in promoting war. We must show Americans our society is permeated by sexism, which forces an inferior status upon women, reducing them to subservient sexual objects, and

which robs both men and women of their natural growth. This institutionalized sexism channels women into un-fulfilling, lower-paying jobs which are servile in nature and purpose; it exploits their bodies for sex and profit; and it degrades and dehumanizes them by a double standard of morality wholly dependent on the myth of male supremacy. This sexism is exploited by the military, officially defining servicewomen as subordinate and thoroughly subjugating them to servile work and the role of a sexual object. We resolve to fight sexism within our society, within our own organization, and within ourselves.

9. To dedicate ourselves to these principles and objectives which directly relate to the imperialist suppression of the People of the World by the United States government. We understand this war is imperialist in origin and affirm that the membership of VVAW is not only concerned with ending this war, but with changing the domestic, social, political and economic institutions that have caused and perpetuated its continuance.



OBJECTIVES OF VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR INC.

1. To demand an immediate cessation of fighting and the withdrawal of all American troops, planes, and military and economic aid from Indochina. We cannot allow one more human being to be killed in Southeast Asia.

2. To demand the immediate termination of all other operations by the United States government, its agencies, and American business interests that are designed to suppress the rightful struggles for liberation and self-determination of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This includes the maintenance of dictatorial governments, economic domination, and the theft of the natural resources of other countries.

3. To demand that all active-duty servicemen and women be afforded the same rights that are guaranteed by the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights that are presently denied by the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We are appalled that our active-duty GI's are treated as less than first class citizens. We endorse the efforts of our active duty sisters and brothers in their struggle to democratize the military.

4. To support all military personnel refusing to serve against their consciences in wars at home and abroad. We demand that Congress enact legislation for the immediate repatriation to those brothers and sisters who are in prison or in self-exile by reason of their refusal to serve in the military. It must also involve an end to all repression and a freeing of all political prisoners.

5. To demand there be no distinctions as to types of discharges and that a single type of discharge be issued, and that this be retroactive. We also demand all veterans receive all rights and benefits under the VA; and that compensation for disabilities be based solely upon the degree of disability for veterans and their families, without regard to sex, race, rank or length of service.

6. To make clear that the United States has never undertaken an extensive open investigation of American war crimes in Indochina. We demand that the United States government, in its war in Indochina, affirm the principles of Neuremberg. As active-duty and former GI's we recognize the responsibility and guilt of the individual soldier to refrain from committing war crimes. We also recognize that the responsibility and guilt of war crimes committed in the name of America lies with our policy makers at all levels.

"Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom, and we would rather sacrifice all than lose our country and live as slaves." -Ho Chi Minh

ARMED FARCES DAY

East

The common denominator at all the demonstrations in the East was rain: it put a crimp in attendance and in plans: all of the demonstrations had originally been scheduled for out of doors. Despite the downpour, attendance both from civilians and GIs was good.

Devens: A Non-Bust

At Fort Devens, the rain led to the scrapping of plans for a series of different kinds of actions spread over four days. Two days of demonstrations were held, with about 300 GI's and civilians participating. The original plan, to march through towns in the area, had to be abandoned, but some marches and rallies were held where speakers included active-duty GIs, VVAW, Dick Brown, (representing Canadian exiles), a South Vietnamese student, Prof. Howard Zinn, Pat Litchfield (a Gold Star Mother and member of Another Mother for Peace), Noam Chomsky, and Howard Levy. The base remained open with its scheduled Armed Forces Day activities and many demonstrators went on base to agitate and rap with more GIs. Thirty people were busted, including 15 VVAW members. They were held on base and interrogated for several hours, then released without either charges or bar letters. One active duty GI who had been active with the project was informed, when he returned to base; that he had an administrative discharge waiting.

Midwest

In the Midwest, several bases saw their first Armed Farces Day actions (including Offutt AFB, world headquarters for the Strategic Air Command, though we do not have details of that action at this time), and the largest demonstration in the country confronted Great Lakes Naval Training Center for the third year in a row.

Great Lakes: A Huge Crowd

About 2500 active duty GIs and civilians held a march and rally/picnic near Great Lakes on May 20. The action was sponsored by Great Lakes MDM, NAS Glenview's THE OTHER HALF, CAMP, VVAW, and RISING UP ANGRY. It was the largest demonstration ever held at a base in the Midwest. A month of intensive agitation, leafletting, and speaking brought people from all over Illinois and Wisconsin, as well as a contingent from St. Louis. Milwaukee VVAW led a caravan down Interstate 94, picking up supporters along the way; and buses brought in people from RISING UP ANGRY, Vets for Peace, the Chicago Peace Council, Women for Peace, and the Young Patriots Organization in Chicago. By far the most important contingent were the 400 sailors and Marines from Glenview NAS and Great Lakes who led the march around the base behind MDM banners. Many other sailors came to the rally that followed the march. The mile long hike around the base was greeted with a generally friendly reception except for a few cop and lifer hecklers here and there. Gathering back in Foss Park for the rally, the crowd heard Rick Scott, a sailor from MDM; Joe Petzel of VVAW; Steve Tappis of RISING UP ANGRY; and a brother from the Illinois Black Panther Party. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to rock band music, rapping, and guerrilla theatre.

Pease/Portsmouth: Support for Prisoners

Given the rains, the brothers and sisters of Service People for Peace and Justice felt that the crowd of 300 people at their action was a pleasantly large one. They held a rally across the street from Portsmouth Naval Prison and then marched through the town of Portsmouth, stopping at the Federal Building for a People's Trial of Nixon and Westmoreland. They were both found guilty, and the people playing Nixon and Westy were placed in the stocks and set on fire. Speakers were all local people, including active-duty GIs and vets. The two main themes of the rally were support for

'the many prisoners at Portsmouth and support for the local peoples' food co-op which is engaged in very difficult struggle right now. After the rally GIs went to the new GI Center in Portsmouth to see the VVAW film, "Only the Beginning," and watch NARMIC slide show.

Wright-Patt: Confrontation at the Gate

The Prisoners of Wright-Patt did not get the large turnout they expected, for a variety of reasons; among them repression on the base. All leaves were cancelled and 500 airmen were put on riot duty. There was also a heavy security plan put into effect. Because they had not gotten a permit for their march, the 350 demonstrators marched on the sidewalk and chanted all the way. The majority of them were Nam vets. When they got to the base gate, about 50 DVAM people and two speakers, former POW George Smith and Michigan VVAW coordinator Bill Marshall, marched over to the median strip that runs down the highway into the base and attempted to go on base. There was a confrontation as General Rafalko, the base commander, and about 50 base cops blocked the entrance. The VVAW people were not permitted to enter, despite about 10 minutes' worth of heated discussion; Smith and Marshall did go on base and probably wished they hadn't: they were presented with an incredibly detailed security writeup on each of them, down to their every move in the previous few days. At that point, everyone decided to go back to a park and have a rally, at which active duty GIs and Tony Scoblick of the Harrisburg 7 spoke, in addition to Smith and Marshall.

Lockbourne: A Vigil

The GIs at Lockbourne honored Armed Farces Day with a vigil for "peace and unity" outside the base gate. The airmen were supported by VVAW, Columbus Clergy and Laymen Concerned, and the War Resisters League. About 50 people participated, including both active duty airmen and their wives and dependents. Speaking at the vigil were Mike Snyder, a Lockbourne airman, Mark Rovick of the Lockbourne Military Project, and Bill Davis of VVAW. The main speaker was Igal Roodenko of WRL. Mark Rovick concluded the vigil with a prayer memorializing the Asian and American dead in the Indochina War. Security police were massed inside the gate and local police were present in force, but there were no disorders.

Campbell: A Sing-In (from People's House)

The march was small — Maybe 150 people and half of them GIs. Oh, but was it spirited! People had things to bang on and the chant leader with the microphone was great. (We had taken the time to make up chants and print them up.) Then a black GI who had flunked out of DI school took over and we sang Army drill songs with new fine words that just came out of his head. Four good banners and little silk screened flags in bright colors that said "FORT CAMPBELL POW" with a fist and dogtags behind concertina wire. The response of passer-bys was much better than ever before in our experience here, which we think is because the banners made very clear our reasons for being out in the street and because of the spirit of the march. The rally had about 225 people — 125 GIs/ Dave Dellinger and a man from VVAW-St. Louis spoke. A GI sang songs he had written in Nam, and a black GI spoke about Fort Campbell. There was also guerrilla theater about the automated air war, anti-personnel weapons, genocide, and POWs.

West

Demonstrations in the West brought out good turnouts and some of the most creative forms for demonstrations that have yet been seen: there was an Operation Dewey Canyon IV at Fort Ord and a guerrilla attack at Carson.

Carson and Lowry: A Bloody Good Show

Colorado VVAW, the Rocky Mountain Military Project, Institute Mountain/West, and GETTING TOGETHER demonstrated at Lowry AFB on May 17 and at Fort Carson on May 20. At Lowry, the coalition leafletted the base from outside the gates at first; then several VVAW people went on base and attempted to leaflet there. Four of them ended up getting letters barring them from base. The leafletting was mainly focused on the air war and the POW issue. Shortly after that, an anonymous phone call reported a robbery at the BX and the gates were sealed off for about 5 minutes.

The Armed Forces Day activities of the brass at Carson featured "...all kinds of shit on display: armored personnel carriers, jeeps, helicopters, tanks..." The coalition people went onto the open base and attempted to leaflet, but the MPs would have none of it. The base had been warned that there would be demonstrators, so they were prepared. They succeeded in issuing 12 letters barring people from base, but the rest of the raiders escaped.

The two most outrageous actions were the pasting of stickers on most of the war toys that were on display, and an attack on a colonel. The bright stickers said "THIS MAIMS BABIES!", "THIS EXPLOITS TAXPAYERS!", etc. While VVAW was attacking the tanks, John O'Conner (a vet formerly with the Covered Wagon) strolled over to where the brass were and whipped out a jar of blood, which he promptly poured all over a colonel. As the colonel stood there in shock, the raiders passed out a leaflet explaining why they had done it, which said in part: "This human blood is being splashed on a high ranking military leader because military leaders, along with the very wealthy, are most responsible for the suffering of common people, but bleed very little themselves..." O'Conner was hustled off by the MPs and will probably be charged with felony assault.

Ord: Dewey Canyon IV

400 people came to the demonstration at Ord, over half of them GIs and vets. There was a rally and march on the Presidio at Monterey, where VVAW people burned their draft cards and discharge papers, and tossed both their medals and a symbolic coffin over the fence. They called their action Operation Dewey Canyon IV, after the vets' demonstrations in D.C. in April of 1971. While this was going on, a riot control unit inside the base went through an elaborate nightstick swinging demonstration in front of the protestors. Armed Forces Day activities at the base were cancelled.

Travis: Traffic Jam

A crowd of 350 to 400 people demonstrated at the main gate of the base, thereby slowing down the traffic in and out of the base. This gave the demonstrators the opportunity to leaflet the stalled cars and talk to their occupants. On base, official Armed Forces Day plans were cancelled and a heavy security force of MPs massed at the gate, ready for action. The demonstrators continued to leaflet and listened to raps from active duty GIs, VVAW, a South Vietnamese student, Jane Fonda, and Len Chandler of the FTA Show.

Southern California: Drum and Bugle Corps?

At SAN DIEGO, the annual Armed Forces Day official parade had a contingent they were expecting. VVAW had been denied permission to march as a VVAW contingent, so they consolidated themselves as the San Marcos Drum and Bugle Corps and got permission to march. Parade officials were shocked to see the vets in their uniforms: T-shirts on which the following words had been stenciled:

"the san marcos drum & bugle corps
a division of
VIETNAM VETERANS
AGAINST THE WAR!"



There was a sideline demonstration of 50 to 75 people, then a picnic and rally with about 125 people, about 40 of them GIs. Speakers included an active duty Marine emcee, Joe Givens of the Black Servicemen's Caucus, and Tony Russo of the Pentagon Papers case. At LONG BEACH, a rally of about 150 people (mostly civilians; literally 2/3 of the base, including most of the "radical ships" were at sea on drills and sea trials) held a march through town. At the rally, Ron Covick, a VVAW vet, spoke, as well as Albert Miranda, a man whose son died in Nam, a South Vietnamese student, and Mary Niclaus, an expert on imperialism. At SAN BERNARDINO, about 100 folks held a demonstration at Norton AFB and then marched to a park in nearby San Berdude for a rally. Speakers included Chicita Lawson (whose husband is awaiting trial for allegedly killing a cop), a VVAW vet, and Peter Wiley, formerly of SOS. In SANTA ANA, there was a rally in a park following a demonstration by about 300 to 500 people at Santa Ana Helicopter Station. Speakers were from MDM, VVAW, a local lawyer, and a local anti imperialist coalition.

(Stolen with love from
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